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Sustainable development

Globalization and interdependence: culture and sustainable development

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Letter dated 11 May 2015 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Turkey and Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to inform you that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan met in Ashgabat on 29 January 2015.

The ministerial meeting concluded with the signing of a joint statement on trilateral cooperation that serves as a positive example of a results-based approach and contribution to the international efforts in addressing challenges for the United Nations post-2015 development agenda.

We would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 19, 21 (b) and 123.

(*Signed*) Yashar T. **Aliyev**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
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(*Signed*) Aksoltan **Ataeva**
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Annex to the letter dated 11 May 2015 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Turkey and Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint statement on the outcome of the Second Trilateral Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan

29 January 2015

The Second Trilateral Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan was held on 29 January 2015 in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual trust and understanding.

The parties expressed their commitment to the Baku Statement, adopted at the First Trilateral Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, held on 26 May 2014.

The parties reaffirmed their respect and support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other.

Discussing international foreign policy issues, the parties noted the importance of their efforts aimed at ensuring peace, security and stability as well as establishing a climate of trust and mutual understanding at the international and regional levels, in particular in Central Asia, the Caspian region, the South Caucasus and the Middle East.

In this context, they underlined the benefits emanating from the cooperation among the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan within the framework of international and regional organizations, first and foremost within the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs specifically underscored the high importance and constructive nature of the summit of the Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan held in Bodrum, Turkey, on 5 June 2014.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs stated that the agreements reached at the highest level created a firm foundation for further expansion of trilateral ties in the different fields of political, energy, trade and economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs discussed the issues for developing cooperation among the three countries in the field of energy. In this framework, they emphasized the high importance of natural gas deliveries from the Caspian region to Europe via the Republic of Turkey.

In this scope, they noted that further developing cooperation between the energy companies as well as organizing trilateral meetings between the representatives of oil and gas companies would be beneficial.

Taking into account the great potential of their countries in the field of transportation, including transit transportation, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs stated that they attach great importance to developing cooperation in the fields of transportation and communications.

With a view to enhancing cooperation in the field of transport and maximum use of the potential of the three countries in this field, they considered establishing an Afghanistan-Turkmenistan-Azerbaijan-Turkey transportation corridor.

With a view to coordinating the activities of all the relevant institutions in the field of transportation and promoting and establishing favourable conditions for the development of multimodal shipments, the parties agreed on the need to organize a meeting among the Ministries of Transportation of the three countries and representatives of the relevant institutions.

Having considered the issues of trade and economic relations, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs noted the importance of cooperation in this field and the priority given to the strengthening and expansion of economic partnerships among the countries on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual benefit and respect for each other's interests.

During the meeting, they discussed the issue of making trade cooperation more efficient and the transit of goods across the territories of the three countries. To this end, they noted the need for organizing a meeting among the representatives of the relevant Ministries and entities as well as the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan.

The parties also discussed the issues of promoting cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian field based on the common cultural, linguistic and historical heritage of the peoples of the three countries.

The Ministers adopted the Framework Programme of Azerbaijani-Turkish-Turkmen Cooperation for the 2015-2017 Period (see enclosure) and noted the coordinating role of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs in its implementation. In this regard, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs called on the relevant Ministries and entities to have more efficient trilateral cooperation in order to implement the provisions of the Framework Programme and to exert efforts for its fulfilment.

The parties emphasized the importance of holding, on a regular basis, meetings in the present trilateral format on issues of common interest with regard to regional and international cooperation, and agreed to hold their next meeting in the Republic of Turkey.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs noted the importance of the preparation for and holding of the summit of the Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan in 2015 in Turkmenistan.

(*Signed*) Elmar **Mammadyarov**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

(*Signed*) Mevlüt **Çavuşoğlu**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

(*Signed*) Rashid **Meredov**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan

Enclosure

Framework Programme of Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan for the Period 2015-2017

I. Economic and commercial relations

1. Developing economic cooperation among Azerbaijani, Turkish and Turkmen enterprises and companies.

2. Improving mechanisms of economic relations among the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan, including studying the possibility of establishing a trilateral business forum.

3. Exchanging experiences and information in the fields of investment, technology, science and other fields as well as the organization of the commercial and industrial regions.

4. Ensuring the active participation of Azerbaijani, Turkish and Turkmen enterprises and companies in the international exhibitions and forums organized in the three countries.

5. Conducting research on economic development and enhancing trilateral cooperation to strengthen the partnership within the framework of international programmes and projects.

II. Cooperation in the field of transportation

1. Establishing a joint technical committee to develop cooperation in the field of multimode transportation aimed at providing effective transportation services in the Caspian Sea.

2. Improving transportation facilities between the international seaports of Turkmenbashi and Baku (Alyat) through the use of cargo shipment methods such as "ro-ro" and "ro-pax".

3. Establishing a joint commission for the exchange of experience on customs procedures and documentation carried out at international border crossing points.

4. Drafting an agreement on international combined cargo shipments among the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan. Allowing other countries to participate in this work.

III. Cooperation in the field of energy

1. Establishing a joint working group to study the possibilities for natural gas deliveries from the Caspian region to Europe via the Republic of Turkey.

2. Having more efficient cooperation among the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan within the framework of international organizations dealing with ensuring international energy security.

3. Establishing and developing partnerships in major fields of sustainable energy, including:

(a) Reliable and stable deliveries of energy resources to the international markets;

(b) Energy conservation and energy efficiency;

(c) Alternative sources of energy.

IV. Cooperation in the field of cultural and human relations

1. Organizing joint cultural events on a regular basis, including:

(a) Culture days in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan;

(b) Forums among the artists and scientists of the three countries;

(c) Joint concerts, conferences and other events.

2. Establishing direct contacts between higher educational institutions of the three countries.

3. Providing appropriate conditions for the scientists of the three countries to conduct joint scientific research.

4. Organizing joint activities in the field of tourism, including:

(a) Exploring the investment opportunities in the field of tourism;

(b) Exchanging experience in the field of tourism;

(c) Organizing joint seminars, tours and training courses for the representatives of the public institutions and companies of the three countries engaged in tourism.